

also provided their fellow students with better access to the Internet.

What started as a partnership between the Northwest Regional Education Services District and Intel was encouraged to grow by our governor and State legislature. The success of the program spread quickly, and the consortium of organizations expanded to include the Oregon Department of Education, Portland General Electric, and US West. There are now 94 StRUT programs around Oregon with 1,500 students involved, and over 22,000 computers have been placed by this program in our K-12 system.

This Friday, I will be meeting with teachers from around Oregon who will be trained in this exciting new program. I look forward to hearing their advice on how Congress can implement these kinds of programs at the Federal level. In fact, StRUT is already being replicated in Washington, California, New Mexico, Arizona, and Congresswoman JOHNSON's home state of Texas.

By allowing students access to these essential technical and business skills, and by providing their fellow students with improved access to the Internet, we can help prepare our children to be successful citizens in the information age.

#### CLEAN WATER TRUST FUND ACT

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 22, 1999*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to introduce a measure which I have supported since the 103rd Congress. This bill, the Clean Water Trust Fund Act, would put all funds collected through Clean Water Act fines and penalties into a trust fund to be used specifically for cleaning up polluted waters. This common sense measure links environmental penalties with environmental remedies, and ensures that money collected for environmental violations will not be lost in Washington.

In Northwest Indiana, one of the most unique and naturally beautiful coastlines in the world has been the site of a major industrial center for over a century. With the advent of environmental regulation in the last fifty years, the companies which had before polluted the waters with impunity had to reform their manufacturing processes and begin paying fines and penalties if their new procedures did not decrease their pollution emissions to an acceptable level. The residents of my hometown were comforted by the understanding that these new rules would protect our environment—our coastline and groundwater and potable water supply—and keep us from being poisoned by the very industries on which we relied for work. But it just has not worked the way it should. Instead of working together, the hand that fines and the hand that cleans are attached to different bodies. Money collected for polluting drinking water can be used for anything from mohair subsidies to McDonalds' overseas advertising. This is clearly not the heroic role of environmental regulation envisioned by my friends and neighbors when we first supported the Environmental Protection Agency's control over how much and what an industry could dump into our nation's waters.

My bill would begin to repair this disconnect. Under the Clean Water Trust Fund Act, residents of Northwest Indiana who read about millions being paid by a local company in Clean Water Act fines will know that money will come back to the region and be used to repair the environmental damage. It is as simple as that. The measure instructs the EPA Administrator to work with the states and turn the funds collected in fines and penalties into environmental remediation for the areas affected.

We can have no higher priority than creating a society where our citizens have the opportunity to live safely and healthily. Making sure that everyone has access to safe, clean water is one of the most basic requirements of civilization. This measure, which would reconnect penalties to relief, is an important first step. Mr. Speaker, with the support of over thirty of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle, I am pleased to introduce the Clean Water Trust Fund Act.

#### CHILDREN'S MEMORIAL DAY

**HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 22, 1999*

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Children's Memorial Flag Project and hope that my colleagues will join me in supporting the establishment of a National Children's Memorial Day where we remember all children who die by violence in our country.

The Children's Memorial Flag Project originated in Alameda County, CA, part of which falls in my Congressional district. This project is dedicated to remembering the children who die as a result of abuse, neglect, and homicide. Each time a child dies as a result of violence, the Children's Memorial Flag is flown at half-staff and a young oak tree is planted in the Children's Memorial Grove. This county effort has become a national effort and I would like to acknowledge the efforts of my dear friend, Alameda County Supervisor, Gail Steele, who created the project. Last year, 25 states flew the Children's Memorial flag over their state capitol on the fourth Friday in April which they designated as Children's Memorial Day. I am working with several Bay Area colleagues to introduce legislation that would adopt the Children's Memorial Flag and establish the fourth Friday in April as a national Children's Memorial Day.

Tragedies such as the school shooting which occurred recently in Littleton, Colorado, remind us of how precious our children are. We cannot let these children, nor the thousands of other children who die of violence, be forgotten. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of children lost to violence this Friday, April 23rd and to adopt this day as National Children's Memorial Day. I hope honoring and remembering these children will be the driving impetus for us to work together as a nation to keep America's children safe from violent crime.

#### NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVER SUPPORT ACT

**HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 22, 1999*

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to encourage my colleagues to sponsor H.R. 1341, "The National Family Caregiver Support Act of 1999." Last month, I joined my colleague, MATTHEW MARTINEZ, in sponsoring this important piece of legislation.

Every American family is doing more with less time—but none more so than the families who must care for an older relative with chronic illnesses like Alzheimer's or with mental or physical disabilities. Growing numbers of families are choosing to care for their own at home over placing sick relatives in institutionalized care settings.

This is what the New York Times calls "a fundamental shift in health care." Today, dutiful children and caring spouses provide the staggering equivalent of \$200 billion in direct care to their elderly or ailing relatives. At least 21 million Americans provide such free care—and the number is growing very quickly. In fact, one in four Americans currently provides care to a person with a chronic medical condition.

Perhaps the best way to understand this tremendous demand on our families is to think of the time required of them. All of us are familiar with the 40 hour work week. Setting aside the expense, the emotional demands and the need for training of family caregivers, we know today that four million American households offer at least 40 hours of unpaid family care to an older relative every week. Family caregivers of Alzheimer's patients spent an average 69 to 100 hours per week providing such care.

We must also bear in mind that these families are juggling multiple responsibilities. More than 40 percent of family caregivers also care for children under 18—and two-thirds are full-time or part-time workers. You may have heard the term, "the sandwich generation" applied to the many Baby Boomers who are struggling to balance work, children and care for their parents. This is having an important impact on the workplace as well; according to corporate executives surveyed last year by the Conference Board, elder care will soon top child care as a major concern by employees.

There is every indication that these demands on family caregivers will grow. Americans are living longer and the need for long-term care is growing quickly. Cost pressures in our health care system are reducing hospital stays and increasing outpatient care. These trends virtually assure that family caregivers will play an increasingly indispensable role in our health care delivery system.

That is why we introduced H.R. 1341. These families need help. Modest, targeted initiatives like H.R. 1341 can do the most to help them by building on existing, successful efforts to provide assistance. Let me give a few examples.

According to experts, "the greatest need for most caregivers is rest." H.R. 1341 would provide them with quality respite care. States like California and Pennsylvania are leaders in providing assistance at "one-stop shops." H.R.